

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /051 W
----- 082214

O 032205Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6645

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJ: GOP DECLARES AMNESTY FOR DEPORTEES - RESOLUTIONS

CLOSING OPPOSITION JOURNALS NULLIFIED

1. THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT IN FIRST MAJOR POLITICAL DECISION DECLARED AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL DEPORTEES AND NULLIFIED RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAD CLOSED JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS CRITICAL OF THE VELASCO REGIME. SEPTEMBER 2 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION WAS GREETED WITH WIDE ACCLAIM. CORREO SEPTEMBER 3 ISSUE BANNER HEADLINED "AMNESTY", WHILE EXPRESO WROTE "DEPORTEES WILL RETURN".

2. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ACCORD NOTES THAT REVOLUTION IS ENTERING A SECOND PHASE OF CONSOLIDATION AND FURTHER ADVANCE. COUNCIL RE-AFFIRMS GUIDING PRINCIPLES OR "IDEOLOGICAL BASES" OF THE REVOLUTION INCLUDING TOLERANCE, IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM, RIGHT OF CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AND REJECTION OF VIOLENCE.

3. IN VIEW OF THIS POLICY STATEMENT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO NULLIFY DEPORTATION ORDERS AND THOSE WHICH DECLARED THE CLOSING OF "ORGANS OF EXPRESSION". MINISTERS DECLARED THAT THIS MEASURE WAS TAKEN IN ORDER THAT ALL PERUVIANS MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE BUILDING OF THE "NEW SOCIETY" AND BE FREE TO EXPRESS CRITICISMS AND DIFFERENCES OF OPINION," RESPECTING

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HOWEVER AUTHORITY AND WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO DISTORT, RETARD, OR

FRUSTRATE THE (REVOLUTIONARY) PROCESS."

4. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REITERATED THEIR DECISION TO RESPECT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, PARTICULARLY AGAINST ARBITRARY DECISIONS. AT THE SAME TIME MINISTERS REAFFIRM THEIR "INFLEXIBILITY" WITH THOSE WHO EXPLOITING THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY ATTEMPT TO IMPEDE THE PROGRESS OF THE REVOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL DEPORTEES (AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE PUBLISHED DECREE) EXCLUDES NO ONE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER A FIGURE AS PROMINENT AS FORMER PRESIDENT BELAUNDE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN, BUT SEPTEMBER 3 PRESS CARRIED NOTE THAT DR. JAVIER ALVA ORLANDINI, A MINISTER IN THE BELAUNDE GOVERNMENT, RETURNED LAST NIGHT. CERTAINLY ALL OR MOST OF THE RECENTLY DEPORTED APRA AND FAR-LEFT LEADERS WILL COME BACK. JOURNALS OF OPINION SUCH AS CARETAS, MARKA, OIGA, AND OPINION LIBRE WILL PROBABLY REOPEN. AS TEXT OF POLICY STATEMENT SUGGESTS GOP NO DOUBT EXPECTS THEM TO EXERCISE A HEALTHY DEGREE OF SELF-CENSORSHIP.

6. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO APPROVED DECREE LAW AT SEPTEMBER 2ND SESSION WHICH RETURNS OFFICIAL GAZETTE EL PERUANO AND GOP DAILY LA CRONICA TO THE NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (SINADI). PRESIDENT VELASCO HAD BROUGHT PAPERS "UNDER DIRECT CONTROL" OF THE PRESIDENCY. NEW DECREE IS INTERPRETED AS A CORRECTION OF SUCH "PERSONALIST DISTORTIONS".

7. THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF AMNESTY IS NOT YET KNOWN. MORALES BERMUDEZ HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CONCERNED WITH COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN PERU BUT HE IS ALSO OBVIOUSLY WILLING, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, TO AFFORD COMMUNISTS AND OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE ONE ANOTHER IN LESS RESTRAINED COMPETITION. THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS URGED NEW GOVERNMENT TO REORGANIZE THE REVOLUTION'S SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO PERMIT COMPETITION FROM POLITICAL GROUPS OTHER THAN "REVOLUTIONARY MILITANTS". GOP MAY FEEL THAT COMMUNISTS WILL LOSE OUT IN THIS COMPETITION. WHATEVER THE POLITICAL EFFECT OF AMNESTY, NEW GOVERNMENT HAS CLEARLY TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP BACK FROM INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE POLICIES OF VELASCO REGIME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, EXILES, RESOLUTIONS, POLITICAL FREEDOM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIMA07253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750304-0720
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750989/aaaadawk.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP DECLARES AMNESTY FOR DEPORTEES - RESOLUTIONS CLOSING OPPOSITION JOURNALS NULLIFIED
TAGS: PINT, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006